EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

10/08/08 on MacLane Key.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a selection of properties

for an electronic document associated with an application program having a user interface,

comprising the steps of:

determining a context for the electronic document displayed on the user

interface;

determining formatting properties for the electronic document displayed on the

user interface associated with the application program, wherein a formatting property has an

associated control;

determining a status of a the formatting property for the electronic document;

and

creating a customized palette based upon the formatting properties and the

context of the electronic document, wherein the customized palette includes controls only for

formatting properties that are available to a user and excludes controls for formatting

properties that are not available to a user;

sizing the palette and resizing the displayed electronic document to

accommodate the palette so that the palette and the electronic document can be

simultaneously viewed;

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coordinating the palette with a toolbar associated with the application program so that the palette provides control features in a same order as corresponding control features in the toolbar;

sending the palette to a user interface associated with the application program, wherein the displayed palette at the user interface excludes displayed controls for the unavailable formatting properties for the electronic document;

determining a change in the status of the formatting property or the context of the electronic document; and

based upon the change of the formatting property or the context of the electronic document,

modifying the palette to reflect the change in the formatting property or the change in the context of the electronic document, wherein the modified palette includes controls only for formatting properties that are available to a user and excludes controls for formatting properties that are not available to a user;

sizing the modified palette and resizing the displayed electronic document to accommodate the modified palette so that the modified palette and the electronic document can be simultaneously viewed;

coordinating the modified palette with the toolbar so that the modified palette provides control features in a same order as corresponding control features in the toolbar; and

replacing the palette with the modified palette so that the modified palette is displayed adjacent to a viewing content area occupied by the electronic document on the user interface, said modified palette being displayed such that the modified palette and an activated associated content of the modified palette do not obscure any portion of the viewing content area occupied by said electronic document regardless of whether the electronic document occupies all portions of the viewing content area, the activated associated content including a pop-up menu or a pull down box, wherein the displayed modified palette excludes displayed

controls for the unavailable formatting properties for the electronic document ~~based upon the~~

~~context of the electronic document and the status of the property,~~

~~creating a customized palette for the user interface so that the palette comprises~~

~~a control only for an available property for the electronic document and excludes controls for~~

~~unavailable properties for the electronic document; and~~

~~displaying the palette in conjunction with the electronic document on the user~~

~~interface including sizing the palette and resizing the displayed electronic document to~~

~~accommodate the palette so that the palette and the electronic document are simultaneously~~

~~viewable such that said palette and an activated associated content of the palette do not~~

~~obscure viewing of said electronic document, the activated associated content of the palette~~

~~being a pop-up menu or pull-down box, wherein the displayed palette excludes displayed~~

~~controls for the unavailable properties for the electronic document.~~

2,-4, 6. (Canceled)

13.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim ~~14~~27, wherein the context of the

electronic document consists of at least one of the following: textual content, formatting

content, or graphical content.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim ~~14~~27, wherein a formatting property

consists of one of the following: a formatting command, an application program command, or

an electronic document characteristic.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim ~~14~~ 27, wherein the palette comprises

a graphical user interface for an application program.

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23. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim ~~14~~ 27, wherein the palette comprises a floating palette.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim ~~14~~ 27, wherein the palette comprises a property browser palette window.

25-26. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The computer system of Claim ~~16~~ 27, wherein the processing unit is further operable for:

        resizing another electronic document displayed on the user interface so that the customized palette, the electronic document, and the another electronic document can be simultaneously viewed.

                            Allowable Subject Matter

        The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: 1, 5, 7-12, 20-24, and 27-29.

        Prior art either alone or in combination doesn't show or teach "determining a change in the status of the formatting property or the context of the electronic document; and

        based upon the change of the formatting property or the context of the electronic document,

        modifying the palette to reflect the change in the formatting property or the change in the context of the electronic document, wherein the modified palette includes controls only for

formatting properties that are available to a user and excludes controls for formatting properties

that are not available to a user;

sizing the modified palette and resizing the displayed electronic document to

accommodate the modified palette so that the modified palette and the electronic document

can be simultaneously viewed;

coordinating the modified palette with the toolbar so that the modified palette provides

control features in a same order as corresponding control features in the toolbar; and

replacing the palette with the modified palette so that the modified palette is displayed

adjacent to a viewing content area occupied by the electronic document on the user interface,

said modified palette being displayed such that the modified palette and an activated associated

content of the modified palette do not obscure any portion of the viewing content area occupied

by said electronic document regardless of whether the electronic document occupies all portions

of the viewing content area, the activated associated content including a pop-up menu or a pull

down box, wherein the displayed modified palette excludes displayed controls for the

unavailable formatting properties for the electronic document." in combination with other

features.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for

Allowance."

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SIMON KE whose telephone number is (571)272-4062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen S. Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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